

February 23, 1943

By war

Memorandum for the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Subject: Status of the Office of Strategic Services

1. It has come to the attention of the Planning Group that a change in the status of the Office of Strategic Services is contemplated, and that its principal activities may be merged with those of some other Governmental agency.

2. The Planning Group is convinced that this contemplated change is unsound. The personnel of the Office of Strategic Services, both in Washington and in the field, has been organized into an efficient unit. It has been assembled and carefully trained in all essential functions. These functions are not now duplicated by any other Governmental agency, and any dislocation of the personnel of the Office of Strategic Services would disrupt its contribution to the war effort.

3. Psychological warfare, coordinated in all its phases, is an essential and effective weapon in modern war. The United States is more favorably situated to prosecute this special type of warfare than is any other country. The possibilities of materially furthering our military effort through psychological warfare in the present global war are obviously great.

4. Inasmuch as psychological warfare extends its operations into both neutral areas and into land and sea theaters of operation, it is not an exclusive function of the State Department, the War Department, or the Navy Department.

5. For these reasons and since psychological warfare activities must be closely coordinated with military operations and national policy, the Planning Group believes that the Office of Strategic Services should continue to be an agency directly under the control and supervision of the Joint Chiefs of Staff without change in its present directive.

For the OSS Planning Group:

James Grafton Rogers
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